

CDF NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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SUDDEN OAK DEATH ADDRESSED BY THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

SACRAMENTO - Andrea Tuttle, Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), today announced the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's (BOF) addition of Humboldt and Contra Costa Counties to the Sudden Oak Death (SOD) "Zone of Infestation." These two counties join a list of 10 others already plagued by *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen known to cause Sudden Oak Death.

Under the "Zone of Infestation" declaration, CDF is authorized to use its resources on private land to assist in the prevention and management of this serious disease. Specific regulations govern the transportation and disposal of wood products in areas designated as infested. "With the continuing spread of this disease, California must move quickly to educate communities and conduct research. Assisting counties in the identification of affected trees, as well as providing funding for tree removal and developing best management practices to reduce the spread of SOD is key to getting the upper hand," said Director Tuttle.

In addition, the BOF today also approved Monterey County's "Sudden Oak Death Hazard Tree Assessment, Removal, and Restoration Plan." Through CDF, the State of California is providing up to \$1,296,000 of reimbursement funding to the counties known to be infested. To be eligible for reimbursement, each county must receive BOF approval of a hazardous tree assessment, removal, and restoration plan. With a contract in place, counties can act upon their plans and then file necessary documentation with CDF for reimbursement of their costs.

To address issues surrounding the pathogen, public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private interests have established the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF). The Task Force is working together to implement a comprehensive and unified approach for research, management, education, and public policy to address SOD. For more information on SOD, go to the COMTF website at <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org>

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